



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps	Permit Application No:	21689(01)
Of Engineers	Date Issued:	11 March 2004
Galveston District	Comments Due:	12 April 2004

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

APPLICANT: Gulf Fiber Corporation
5300 West Sam Houston Parkway North, Suite 101
Houston, Texas 77041-5162

AGENT: Marine Resources Inc.
7897 SW Jack James Drive, Suite A
Stuart, Florida 34997-7200
Telephone: 772-221-2181
POC: Tony Martin

LOCATION: The project is located in OCS federal waters, in the Gulf of Mexico, in the Galveston Area coastwise safety fairway, in Block 362, Offshore Texas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to modify Permit 21689 that authorized the installation of 810,546 feet of 1.5-inch in diameter fiber optic cable in the Gulf of Mexico. The applicant proposes to install the cable within the coastwise safety fairway to a depth of 3 feet below the Gulf bottom. The previously authorized permit required 10 feet of cover be maintained crossing the fairway. The applicant states that 3 feet of burial depth is sufficient for protection against trawler door or anchor penetration given the shear strength of the sediments. The applicant realizes that a ship anchor weighing in excess of 5 tons could penetrate the sediments to a depth of more than 3 feet and is aware of the risk and willing to absorb the associated costs for repair and lost service in this event. The cable will be installed by jetting using a remotely operated vehicle equipped with a water jet system.

The applicant's modified plans are enclosed in 4 sheets. Sheet 1 of 4 will be added to the plans. Sheets 2, 3, and 4 of 4 will supercede original plan sheets 3, 25, and 26, respectively.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

The decision as to whether a permit will be issued will be based on an evaluation of the impact of the proposed work on navigation and national security within the fairway area.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS: Texas Coastal Zone consistency certification is required. The applicant has stated that the project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said Program.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The staff archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permit area or affected area.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: Any comments you have to make regarding the proposed work from the standpoint of navigation must reach this office on or before **12 April 2004**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date.

If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

Jeff Hill
Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229
409-766-3133 Phone
409-766-3931 Fax
DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS